



**teesha & fred**



## adoption

We have always wanted a child to complete our family, and tried for several years to have a child. In 2019 we started fertility treatments, but that process was, sadly, delayed by the COVID pandemic in early 2020. After a final, unsuccessful, attempt to get pregnant in 2021, we decided to start the adoption process. In many ways adoption fits with who we are as people, and as a couple. It is part of what we are on this earth to do – to serve and love others whether they are related to us by blood or not. It is in that same spirit that we pray every night that God would bring us a child to love and to share in our beautiful life together.

# about us



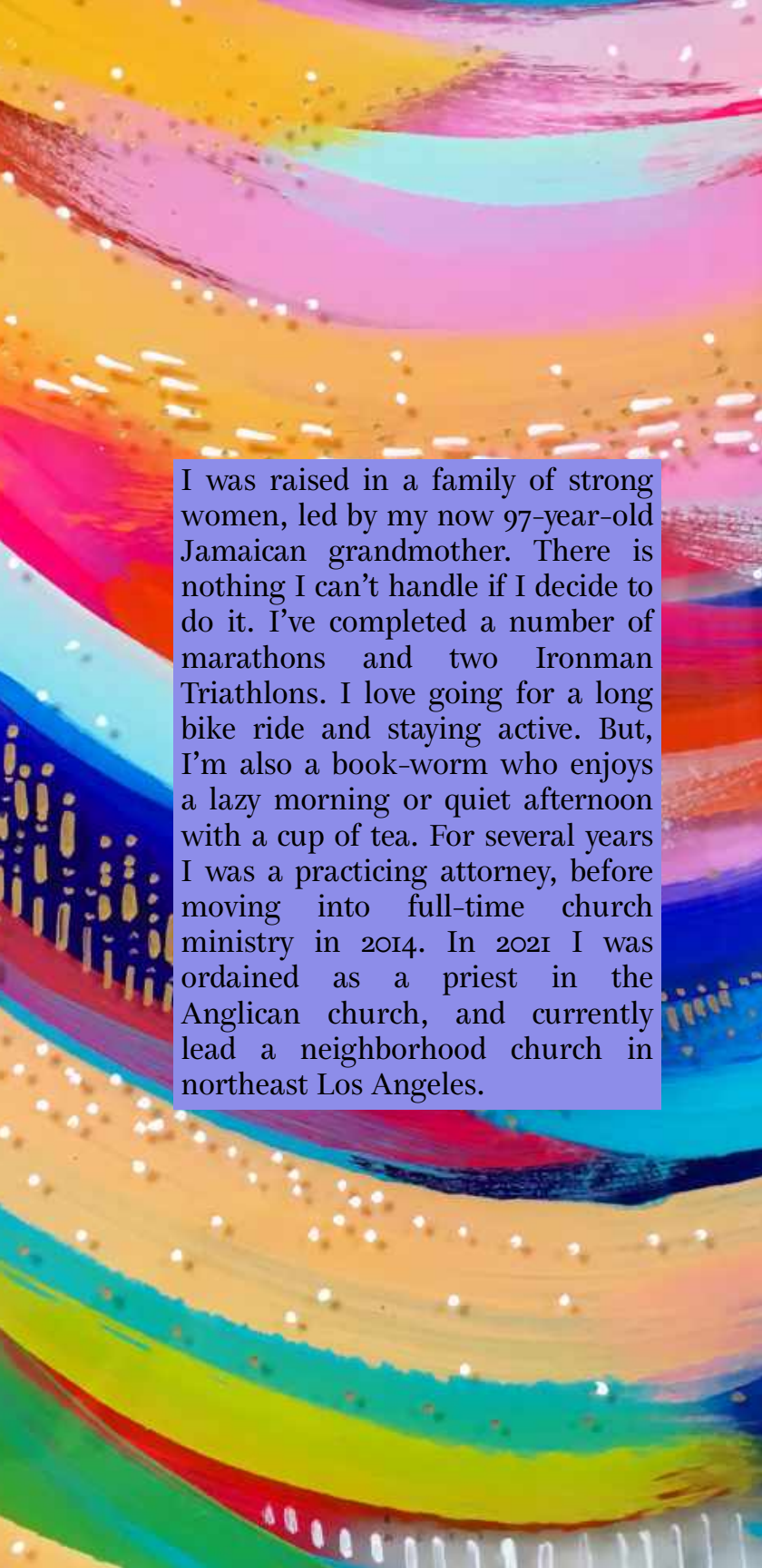


We met in 2014 at church, where Teesha was working, when she interviewed Fred to be a volunteer. We started dating shortly after that, and after three months we knew we wanted to be together forever so we got married nine months after that! We love to do it all, no matter what it is. Going on a long road trip? Sounds great! Staying in bed late on a cold day with a cup of coffee and a book? We are here for it. We find joy in lots of life's experiences, both large and small, both the special and the everyday. We are just as comfortable making new friends at a party as we are hanging out with family and people we've known for years. A good day for us involves engaging every part of who we are as people: The mind, through reading and talking with each other about the world around us. The body, through exercise and a good meal. The spirit, through prayer and our practice of faith.



teesha





I was raised in a family of strong women, led by my now 97-year-old Jamaican grandmother. There is nothing I can't handle if I decide to do it. I've completed a number of marathons and two Ironman Triathlons. I love going for a long bike ride and staying active. But, I'm also a book-worm who enjoys a lazy morning or quiet afternoon with a cup of tea. For several years I was a practicing attorney, before moving into full-time church ministry in 2014. In 2021 I was ordained as a priest in the Anglican church, and currently lead a neighborhood church in northeast Los Angeles.



**fred**





I love being with friends, helping others, and hospitality. I have never met a stranger and am often the person others look to for wisdom and support. I am an action-oriented person who enjoys getting things done for our family, our friends, and others in our community. I have worked in marketing and advertising for most of my career. In 2018 Teesha and I started a nonprofit that combined two of my great passions: helping people in need, and cooking good (and beautiful) food. I spend as much time as I can helping Teesha with everything at the church and in growing our community.





# Life WITH you

We love our life in Los Angeles! We moved out here in 2016, and, after spending a year away in New Orleans in 2020, we could not wait to return to the City of Angels, which we now call our home. We live in a great house on a quiet street, but close to all the best that L.A. has to offer - food, art and museums, the history of the city, and more. We also live near several excellent schools, and volunteer regularly in the community. We like to get to know our neighbors, and make where we live a better place for everyone.



# family



We are who we are because of our families. We make it a priority to talk with our families by phone all the time, sometimes daily. We all travel to visit each other so that we can be together several times a year, especially around holidays. Both of our siblings live nearby. Many of our siblings and cousins have children, so any child we welcome into our home will be raised with a large, loving family, full of fun, parties, and special traditions.



# outdoor activities



Being outside and enjoying nature is one of our greatest sources of joy as a couple. It helps us appreciate beauty in both the small and big ways, just by looking around and breathing in the fresh air. In 2020, during Covid, we built a bed in the back of our small car and drove all around the Western United States, camping, hiking, and visiting 15 of America's National Parks. We will never forget that experience, and we want to make being outside and loving nature an important part of our lives as a family.



# church community

A big place like Los Angeles can be lonely, even when you are surrounded by millions of people. That's why you have to find your community. For us, our church is our community. It is filled with wonderful people from many different backgrounds, walks of life, and experiences. We're not "perfect" people - we're trying to figure life out together, and how to love each other, and our neighbors, a little better each day. We do this through our shared practice of faith that involves being together every week, sharing meals together, caring for one another in the hard times, and celebrating the good times. Any child we welcome into our family would be surrounded by loving friends of all races, ethnicities, and ages, including the many children in our church community.



We have been blessed to visit many parts of our beautiful planet together. Travel is important to us because it lets us see new places, try new things, and meet new people. These experiences have made us better people by opening our minds to new ideas and new possibilities, and helped us appreciate the amazing diversity of the world in which we live. We hope travel and new experiences will be part of our family for the rest of our lives. Together, we have traveled to Mexico, the Bahamas, French Polynesia, Portugal, and a number of states in the U.S., including Alaska.



Oui





# we promise...

to let you pick the pizza toppings.  
to give you as many goodnight kisses as you want.  
to fill your Passport with stamps.  
to climb a mountain with you, and to teach you how to pitch a tent and to build a fire.  
to let you snuggle with Lucille the dog as much as you want.  
to laugh to show you all the best and classic Disney movies.

to teach you how to make the perfect ice cream sundae.  
to sit with you on the patio at night and watch the colors of the sky change.  
to go on long walks together and talk about everything that is on your mind.  
to help you be brave when you are afraid and to be kind to everyone you meet.  
to let you climb into our bed when you're scared.  
to never make you take cheesy family pictures wearing matching pajamas or ugly sweaters.

to read as many books as you want until you find your favorite one.  
to claim your fart as our own in front of any future love interests.  
that family holidays will include spicy food and dancing.  
to say "I'm sorry" when we are wrong.  
to say "I love you" every day.

